

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 IO-03 L-01 RSC-01 /043 W  
----- 019032

P R 140720Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7875  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0231

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA  
SUBJECT: JAPAN/KOREA RELATIONS

SUMMARY. JANUARY 13 AMBASSADOR REVIEWED WITH JAPANESE  
AMBASSADOR USHIROKU CURRENT STATE OF GOJ/ROKG RELATIONS.  
USHIROKU GENERALLY SEES IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS, BUT  
PROBLEMS ARE STILL AHEAD, PARTICULARLY WITH ARRANGING RELEASE  
OF TWO JAPANESE ARRESTED UNDER EMERGENCY DECREES.  
MINISTERIAL MEETING LIKELY IN MAY/JUNE: COULD TAKE PLACE VERY  
SOON IF STUDENTS RELEASED. END SUMMARY.

1. USHIROKU, WHO DEPARTING FEBRUARY TEN, WAS PLEASED  
WITH IMPROVEMENT IN GOJ/ROKG RELATIONS SINCE LOW POINT  
OF AUGUST 15 AFTERMATH. NEVERTHELESS, HE NOT FUNDAMENTALLY  
OPTIMISTIC, GIVEN UNDERLYING KOREAN SUSPICIONS AND  
SENSITIVITIES TOWARD JAPAN AND PRESSURES FROM JAPANESE  
PRESS AND LEFTWING PARTIES ON GOJ, PARTICULARLY WITH  
RESPECT TO IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA.

2. USHIROKU WAS NOT CONFIDENT THAT RELEASE OF TWO  
JAPANESE STUDENTS ARRESTED UNDER EMERGENCY DECREES  
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COULD BE ARRANGED. HE VIEWED PROSPECTS OF RELEASE AS

FIFTY-FIFTY. FORMER PRIMIN KISHI, WHO HEADING JAPANESE  
DELEGATION TO KOREA/JAPAN COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
PRESENTLY IN SEOUL, WILL RAISE ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT PARK  
JANUARY 14. ACCORDING TO USHIROKU, KISHI NOT ENTHUSIASTIC  
ABOUT RAISING ISSUE, BUT FEELS OBLIGED TO DO SO IN VIEW  
ADVANCE PRESS REPORTS IN TOKYO PAPERS. STUDENT RELEASE  
WILL BE RAISED BY KISHI NOT ON MERITS, BUT AS ACTION  
HELPFUL IN JAPAN.

3. PROBLEMS ARRANGING RELEASE ARISE FROM ROKG DESIRES FOR  
GUARANTEE BY GOJ THAT STUDENTS WILL REMAIN SILENT AFTER  
RETURN TO JAPAN, WHICH IMPOSSIBLE. (AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO  
POINTED OUT TO FONMIN KIM DONG JO UNFEASIBILITY OF SUCH  
A REQUEST FOR SILENCE.) USHIROKU HAS URGED ROKG TO ACCEPT  
BRIEF FLURRY OF PRESS INTERVIEWS CRITICAL OF ROKG AFTER  
RELEASE, ON GROUNDS STORY WILL DIE DOWN VERY QUICKLY.

4. ROKG WOULD ALSO LIKE SOME NOTE OF REPENTANCE FROM  
THE STUDENTS ACKNOWLEDGING GUILT AS THEY HAD DONE  
IN ORIGINAL COURT TRIAL. BUT STUDENTS HAVE MADE PROBLEM  
MORE DIFFICULT BY WORKING APPEAL IN VERY TOUGH TERMS.  
USHIROKU ALSO COMPLAINED THAT HIS EFFORTS TO MODERATE  
THE STUDENTS' POSITION HAMPERED BY INABILITY OF EMBASSY  
PERSONNEL TO SEE THEM. USHIROKU EXPECTS FINAL SUPREME  
COURT ACTION LATER IN JANUARY WITH THE INITIAL HEARING  
THIS WEEK, ACCORDING TO ADVICE HE HAS RECEIVED FROM  
SUPREME COURT JUSTICES.

5. USHIROKU EXPECTS MINISTERIAL MEETING SOMETIME IN  
MAY/JUNE, AFTER CONCLUSION REGULAR DIET SESSION. HE  
SAID THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BEFORE DIET CONVENES  
FEBRUARY FIVE IF STUDENTS ARE RELEASED AND HE HAS  
HINTED AT THIS POSSIBILITY TO ROKG.

6. RE KIM TAE CHUNG PROBLEM, USHIROKU OPINED THAT  
FONMIN MIYAZAWA WISHES TO CLOSE OUT THIS ISSUE QUICKLY,  
BUT JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION MAY NOT MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.  
KIM TAE CHUNG TOLD VISITING DIET MEMBERS LAST WEEK THAT  
HE DID NOT AT THIS TIME WISH TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS, WHICH  
EASES PROBLEM. USHIROKY COMMENTED THAT GOVERNMENT  
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APPARENTLY USING KIM TAE CHUNG AS COUNTER TO KIM  
YONG SAM.

7. USHIROKU SAID THAT KIM YONG SAM, THROUGH AN EMISSARY,  
HAD REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS IN TOKYO WITH PRIMIN MIKI,  
FONMIN MIYAZAWA, DEPUTY PRIMIN FIKUDA, FINMIN OHIRA AS  
WELL AS PARTY OFFICIALS. REQUEST MADE ONLY ON JANUARY 11,  
CONTRARY TO STATEMENT BY KIM YONG SAM TO AMBASSADOR THAT

APPOINTMENTS ALREADY ARRANGED (SEOUL 085). USHIROKU IS RECOMMENDING THAT SENIOR GOJ CABINET MEMBERS NOT SEE KIM YONG SAM SINCE THEY HAVE NOT YET MET WITH ROKG COUNTERPARTS. HE IS, INCIDENTALLY, TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL TO VISIT TOKYO BRIEFLY FOR MEETING WITH MIKI DURING KIM CHONG PIL'S SOUTHEAST ASIA TRIP. USHIROKU SUGGESTED THAT PARTY LEADERS SEE KIM YONG SAM.

8. USHIROKU REITERATED HIS COMPLAINTS IN DEALING WITH FONMIN KIM DONG JO WHO TENDS TO BE VERY DIFFICULT AND IS KNOWN IN JAPAN AS "THE BLUFFER." HE SAID HE SEES MUCH MORE OF MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO YI PYONG HUI WHO IS DE FACTO FONMIN AS FAR AS ROKG/GOJ RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED. HE FINDS YI MUCH MORE SYMPATHETIC AND UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS IN JAPAN.

9. USHIROKU SAID THAT HE HAS STILL BEEN UNABLE TO ARRANGE DIRECT EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION BETWEEN JAPANESE AND KOREAN POLICE. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE DE FACTO CONTACTS ESTABLISHED, BUT BOTH POLICE FORCES ARE RELUCTANT AND DEAL NOW ONLY THROUGH INTERPOL. ON JAPANESE SIDE, POLICE ARE STILL UNHAPPY WITH INVESTIGATION OF ROK CIA AGENTS INVOLVED IN KIDNAPPING OF KIM TAE CHUNG, ALTHOUGH SENIOR CIA AGENT INVOLVED HAS BEEN DISMISSED. ON KOREAN SIDE, ROK POLICE EQUALLY UNHAPPY WITH JAPANESE INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSIN MUN'S CONNECTIONS IN JAPAN.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SEOUL00231  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750013-0847  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JAPAN/KOREA RELATIONS SUMMARY. JANUARY 13 AMBASSADOR REVIEWED WITH JAPANESE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, KS, JA, (USHIROKU)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006